

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY: EA/ROC: J.P. LEONARD

APPROVED BY: EA: M. STEARNS

EA/ROC: R.W. SULLIVAN EA/LC: MR. RIVES

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TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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S E C R E T STATE 186753

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CB, TW

SUBJ: ROC MILITARY INSTRUCTORS FOR CAMBODIA

REF: (A) TAIPEI 5647

(B) STATE 180303

(C) PHNOM PENH 9180

1. ROC MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS HENRY CHEN REPEATED TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEARNS SEPTEMBER 19 INFORMATION THAT GRC HAD DECIDED TO SEND PILOT AND ARTILLERY INSTRUCTORS BACK TO CAMBODIA (REF. A). HE SAID GROUP WOULD BE LEAVING VERY SHORTLY.

2. CHEN SAID ALSO THAT ROC WAS CONSIDERING CAMBODIAN REQUEST FOR TEN AIR CREWS TO FLY CAMBODIAN C-47'S. ASKED FOR US VIEW, STEARNS STRESSED THAT PROVISION OF AIR CREWS WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO CAMBODIAN MILITARY EFFICIENCY. CHEN SAID THAT ROC HAD GAINED IMPRESSION THAT CAMBODIANS WANTED TO EMPLOY SOME ROC PERSONNEL TO FLY COMBAT MISSIONS IN AC 47 GUN SHIPS. HE ASKED WHAT US ATTITUDE WOULD BE TOWARD MISSIONS OF THIS KIND.

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STEARNS REPLIED THAT WE ASSUMED ROC WOULD WISH TO KEEP ITS PER-

SONNEL OUT OF COMBAT ROLE AND USG SHARED THIS VIEW.

3. IN RESPONSE TO CHEN'S QUERY, STEARNS ASSURED HIM THAT USG WOULD MAKE NO ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT ROC MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GKR, SINCE WE VIEWED THIS AS BILATERAL MATTER BETWEEN GRC AND GKR. CHEN SAID ALTHOUGH HE UNINSTRUCTED ON THIS MATTER HE ASSUMED HIS GOVERNMENT PLANNED NO ANNOUNCEMENT EITHER. RUSH

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